



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Doctoral Programs
Handbook

3737 Seminary Road

Alexandria, VA 22304

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Doctor of Educational Ministry in Educational Leadership

The D.Ed.Min in Educational Leadership is a professional degree oriented towards increased excellence in educational leadership and ministry to shape minds and culture in schools, universities, churches, judicatories, and other educational settings. For highly qualified professionals in Christian ministry and leadership in varied educational settings, this program is designed for administrators, educators, chaplains, and regional leaders in religious education; it is academically rigorous while not directed primarily toward careers in academic research or teaching. With an intended focus on the ministry of Christian education and formation, in both church and religious school settings, this degree is intended to equip, strengthen, and deepen the ministry and leadership of Christ-centered educational professionals who do not possess the MDiv or its equivalent but who nonetheless hold significant positions of leadership in religiously affiliated schools and universities. Students complete coursework during four Summer terms, as well as in reading and assignments completed preceding and between residencies. Students then complete a thesis based around a project of transformational ministry in their settings. The program is generally completed in six years, with extensions granted under special circumstances. The D.Ed.Min. requires 44 credit hours for graduation.

How the D.Ed.Min works:

- **Application process**
 - Reflection on your context in ministry begins during this process
- **On-campus residencies at VTS**
 - Attend four intensive sessions over four consecutive summers.
- **Online Class Engagement**
 - Read and complete preparatory work for academic seminar courses in the months prior to each residency. About two months prior to each residency, each academic seminar course provides four to six weeks of online coursework that engages course readings and concepts, through forums and assignments. Students are expected to engage fully in online work in the assigned timelines of each course, and prior to arriving to campus.
 - Between residencies, reading courses and contextual study courses are held online with periodic check-ins.
 - Returning students: Complete and submit online all work associated with case studies, institutional studies, reading courses, and thesis proposals.
- **Degree Requirements**
 - **Core Academic Courses (14 credit hours)**
 - Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Research
 - Foundations of Biblical and Theological Studies
 - Philosophy of Education
 - Sacred Texts and Education
 - Moral & Ethical Leadership
 - Governance & Mission
 - Theological Anthropology and Human Development
 - **Integrative Courses (16 credit hours)**
 - Intercultural Leadership Workshop (1 credit hour.)

- Introduction to Case Study (1 credit hour)
 - Case Studies (1 credit hour each; 5 credit hours total)
 - Write, appraise, and discuss situations in your own ministry and leadership at the edge of your competency and comfort, in order to foster disciplined reflection on your actions and stretch your ways of perceiving, interpreting, and responding.
- Contextual Study (4 credit hours)
 - With a team chosen from where you live and work, study your context of ministry and its surrounding social context.
- Biblical & Theological Studies (2 credit hours)
 - Between the first and second residencies, read assigned foundational texts and complete work in scripture and theology.
- Visions of Transformation integrative theology reading course (4 credits)
 - Between residencies, read selected books in scripture, theology, and social, educational, and political philosophy, focusing on themes of individual, communal, and cultural transformation.
- Three Elective Courses (2 credit hours each, 6 credits total)
 - Select additional courses from those being offered in various residency sessions.
- Project Thesis Proposal and Completion (7 credit hours)
 - Plan, execute, and evaluate an “experiment” or “demonstration” in your ministry context that addresses a higher aim of transformative Christian life, service, and leadership, culminating in the completion of your project thesis. An action-research integrative thesis of approximately 80-120 pages in length.